

In an **inverted sentence**, the subject comes *after* the verb. The **subject and verb agreement** is sometimes difficult to “hear” in an inverted sentence. Look at these examples.

**V**                      **S**

**Singular subject and verb:**      Critical to Elizabeth’s case *is* the *credibility* of Abigail.

**V**                      **S**

**Plural subject and verb:**      Critical to Elizabeth’s case *are* the *lies* she tells about Abigail.

When you write inverted sentences, be sure not to mistake a word in the opening phrase as the subject. This can lead to errors in subject and verb agreement.

**A. PRACTICE:** *The following sentences are about Act III. Underline each main subject. Circle each main verb. Then identify the one sentence that contains an error in subject and verb agreement. Correct that sentence by crossing out the incorrect verb and writing the correct one above it.*

1. There are many people in the vestry room.
2. Here are the husbands of the accused women.
3. Why is Proctor so stunned by Mary’s behavior?
4. Continually arguing and getting in the way is Reverend Parris.

**B. Writing Application:** *In each of the following sentences, the subject comes before the verb. Rewrite each sentence in inverted order, choosing the verb that agrees in number with the subject.*

1. Abigail’s behavior (*is/are*) highly persuasive.

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2. Corey and Nurse (*is/are*) riled up about the treatment of their wives.

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3. Mary Warren (*recalls/recall*) her confession in near hysterics.

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4. Danforth (*gazes/gaze*) at Abigail in astonishment.

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